

carry out the rules of the Committee or to facilitate the effective administration of the Committee, in accordance with the rules of the Committee and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have several problems with the President's budget. First, the Draconian cuts and discretionary spending do not reduce the deficit. In fact, the deficit continues as far as the eye can see. This budget is not honest and omits many important priorities, thus negating the President's promise to cut the deficit in half by 2009. And further, this budget has the audacity to raise taxes on our veterans.

And as Shakespeare's Julius Caesar said to Brutus, "Et tu Brutus, yours is the meanest cut of all." This is the meanest cut of all in this budget: to cut our veterans, to raise taxes on our veterans. We need to be doing more for our veterans, not less. And certainly not raising taxes on our veterans as this budget does.

And this budget also hurts our farmers, cutting badly needed programs. The budget is not balanced. In fact, this budget creates a new record for a deficit \$427 billion for fiscal year 2006.

This administration's budget continues a record of deficits and raising debt over the last 4 years. For the third year in a row, the administration's budget creates a new record deficit, while offering no plan to restore the budget to balance. The \$5.6 trillion 10-year surplus inherited by this administration from the Clinton administration, which should have been used to strengthen Social Security, instead has been squandered and replaced by a deficit of \$4 trillion over the same time period from 2002 to 2011.

Our goal of the deficit reduction accomplished during the Clinton administration was to save for the retirement of the baby boomers. Instead, this administration has run up mountains of new debt, which just passes the bill for today's policy choices on to our children and our grandchildren.

Under the administration's policies, the annual burden of the Federal debt on the typical American family will more than double over the next 10 years, with each family's share of the Federal interest payments on the debt rising from just over \$2,000 per year to around \$5,000 per year. This is not the kind of legacy we should be leaving to our future, to our children and grandchildren. This debt transfer is essentially a birth tax.

Another thing, this budget is not honest. Several of the President's top priorities are omitted from this budget. What surprises me is these projects that he is omitting from his budget this week were signature points in his

State of the Union address last week. These omitted policies include debt service, and add \$2 trillion to the deficit.

Not included in the budget are transition costs of privatizing Social Security. By delaying the start of the President's new Social Security plan until 2009 and then passing it on over 3 years, this budget manages to avoid showing most of the costs, but they are to be substantial. The Social Security actuaries have estimated the cost could be about \$750 billion, and these are the President's people, over the 2009 to 2015 period alone, and between \$4 trillion and \$5 trillion over the first 20 years of full implementation.

Also not included in this budget are funds for appropriations and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Just think: the additional \$81 billion being asked for this year for our soldiers for their safety, for their hardware, for their armor and the military, is not even in this budget. Is that responsible? According to a scenario developed by the Congressional Budget Office, costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan could run as much as \$400 billion more than what this budget includes.

The budget also includes no funding to repair the Alternative Minimum Tax, which protects middle-income taxpayers, which is another \$64 billion not accounted for in the budget.

The budget also imposes a \$250 annual enrollment fee for veterans without service-connected disabilities who also have incomes above VA means-tested levels. What this means is even before some of our veterans can even get into the hospital, they are being taxed \$250. The budget also increases pharmacy copayments for our veterans from \$7 to \$15. Both of these veterans taxes were proposed in the last two budgets, and we rejected both of them in Congress.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this Federal budget should be an honest blueprint for the spending priorities of this government. However, this budget is not honest. It is passing our obligations, responsibilities, and challenges to our children and grandchildren; and that is immoral. Let us stand up for the honesty and goodness of our Nation and reject this budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AN IMMORAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the President has presented his budget to the Congress. We have begun a process which is the most moral process our government undertakes each year.

The budget of the United States is a moral statement. The President begins that budget process by making his own moral statement. The process goes forward with the Congress deliberating; and when we come out at the end of the year with the appropriations based on this budget, we are making a statement to the Nation and to the world of what our moral values are, stating what are our moral values.

This budget shows our moral values are really in serious trouble, because I think this is a budget of war against peace. You could call this a war-against-peace budget. It is not exaggerating to say it is kind of a barbarity-against-civilization budget. Because what we are doing is saving money. We are going to save money in all the areas which would carry forward our civilization and benefit peace and benefit a productive society; we are going to save that money in order to put it into the military. That is what this budget is all about.

It is a very dishonest budget to begin with, because the largest items of expenditure for this coming year are not even put in the budget. We are going to be asked in a few weeks to vote on a budget which includes \$80 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is not included in this budget. We ought to be honest about that.

We ought to be honest about the fact that Social Security proposals are being made which will require tremendous amounts of money to be drained from the budget also. So it is not an honest budget to begin with. It is not a moral budget, or it is a moral budget that reflects bad morals.

The morality that we must undertake here is understanding what the Congressional Black Caucus always has understood, which is that this is the most important item on the agenda of the Congress; and we must deal with items like education, like health care, housing, et cetera. We have disparities which exist and impact upon the black community, and those disparities really impact on the total working-family community, and the majority of Americans are impacted.

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So as we pursue the closing of the gap between those disparities, we are also pursuing that for the rest of America, as well as for the African American community.

The chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus will elaborate on that more in a few minutes. I just want to say that this omission that we are dealing with here tonight is the beginning of the process. We are going to have debates, negotiation, and legislation. I hope that those of us who debate and discuss and negotiate will show greater moral fiber than has been displayed so far, and that at the end of